REMARKS

Claims 1, 17, 18, 34 and 50 have been amended. Support for the claim amendments can be found at pages 2-3 of the specification.

Claims 1-50 are currently pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-4, 7-9 AND 11-50 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER <u>HUXTER</u> (U.S. PATENT PUBLICATION NUMBER 2002/0107820) IN VIEW OF <u>YANG</u> (U.S. PATENT PUBLICATION NO. 2002/0072945):

Neither of the foregoing references, individually or combined, disclose "receiving and registering schedule information from a customer member, corresponding to availability status information of the customer member for receiving a package addressed to the customer member, the schedule information comprising availability status information of the customer member for each of a plurality of days within a predetermined period...wherein said receiving and registering schedule information is carried out in advance to receiving a shipment request and asynchronously with said determining, such that said receiving and registering schedule information is carried out without relationship with a specific shipment request," as recited in amended claim 1, for example.

At page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner admits that <u>Huxter</u> fails to teach the Applicants "scheduling information" as recited in claim 1, for example. Instead, <u>Huxter</u> discloses customer contact information, which includes email addresses, phone numbers, address information and a preferred Automated Collection Point (ACP) (See paragraph [0179]). In <u>Huxter</u>, the customer must first order <u>specific goods</u> from an Etailer in order to schedule a delivery to specified ACP site. The Etailer asks the customer to specify the address to which the <u>specific goods</u> should be received. In <u>Huxter</u>, the customer does not register schedule information in advance.

The Applicants respectfully submit that <u>Yang</u> fails to make up for the deficiencies of <u>Huxter</u>. <u>Yang</u> merely discloses that a buyer first reviews product items to be purchased, then decides whether to order a specific product and proceeds to an order mode <u>prior to</u> marking a calendar to indicate the days which the buyers wants the <u>specified</u>, <u>ordered product</u> to be

delivered (See paragraphs [0063] – [0065]). Yang fails to disclose that the calendar may be marked to indicate days of delivery in advance to ordering the specific products.

The teachings of <u>Huxter</u> and <u>Yang</u> are fundamentally different from those of the present invention.

Thus, the combination of <u>Huxter</u> and <u>Yang</u> fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness over the present invention.

Independent claims 17, 18, 34 and 50 have been amended to include similar features as those in amended claim 1. Therefore, although the above comments are specifically directed to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the comments would be helpful in understanding differences of various other rejected claims over the cited references.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 5, 6 AND 10 UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER HUXTER IN VIEW OF YANG AND FURTHER IN VIEW OF PARTOVI (U.S. PATENT PUBLICATION NO. 2002/0126813):

Dependent claims 5, 6 and 10 indirectly or directly depend from claim 1. Therefore, the comments above in Section I may be applied here also.

III. CONCLUSION:

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore, defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 8 25 200 4

Deidre M. Davi

Registration No. 52,797

1201 New York Ave, N.W., 7th Floor

Washington, D.C. 20005 Telephone: (202) 434-1500 Facsimile: (202) 434-1501